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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know when the hon. the Minister called for the report ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Soon after the receipt of the question from the Council office."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Will he be pleased to place it on the table of the House when he receives it ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I have no objection."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Do the Government mean to advocate total prohibition or advocate the removal of shops from the area ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Government have not received any resolutions that any shops from the areas should be removed."

Closing of liquor shops in South Arcot district.

* 784 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the excise revenue realized by Government from South Arcot district during the past five years ;

(b) the number of liquor and toddy shops in this district during each of those five years ;

(c) the number of trees licensed for tapping during the said period ;

(d) the approximate amount of money spent on drink by people in the said period ; and

(e) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to reduce the drink evil in that district during the said period ?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the Annual Excise Administration Reports of the past five years which have been published.

(c) Figures showing the number of trees licensed in the district for tapping during the past five years are given below :—

Year.	Cocoanuts.	Palmyras.	Dates.
1923–24	49,382	13,258	8,600
1924–25	47,655	13,305	8,987
1925–26	52,179	12,526	8,144
1926–27	50,622	12,418	9,355
1927–28	48,402	13,233	8,449

(d) The Government have not the information.

(e) The measures specially applicable to South Arcot are :—

(1) The issue strength of country spirits was from 1st April 1925, reduced from 35° u.p. to 38° u.p. throughout the district except in the tracts adjoining French territory.

(2) From 1st April 1927, the duty on arrack issued to certain shops of the Manjakuppam range in this district was raised from Rs. 6–4–0 to Rs. 8–13–6 per proof gallon

(3) The limit of private possession of country spirits without licence was reduced from 8 to 6 drams from 1st April 1925 and from 1st April 1928, the limit was further reduced to 4 drams in all the municipalities of the district.

(4) The total number of licences for the sale of liquor was reduced from 887 in 1922–23 to 823 in 1927–28.

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Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister consider the advisability of supplying the questioner with the information asked for in clause (b) ?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The answer sought for will be found in the Annual Excise Administration Report. Government will have no difficulty in giving it."

Agriculture

Stability of the Mysore Agricultural Dairy Farm Company, Limited.

*785 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government have any information as to the solvency, reliability, stability or otherwise of the Mysore Agricultural Dairy Farm Company, Limited, and if so, what it is ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister is aware that this Dairy company is collecting a large sum of money by way of shares and deposits from villagers ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I am not aware of it."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" In the interests of the people who are now fleeced thus will he please obtain the information ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I shall consider."

Starting of a demonstration farm for growing sugarcane in Bellary district.

*786 Q.—Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Director of Agriculture on his last visit to the wet land areas in the Bellary district promised to consider the question of taking over for lease an acre of wet land and growing sugarcane and making jaggery at Government expense by Government men as demonstration to the ryots; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to hasten the starting of such a demonstration ?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) These demonstration areas were duly started at Chitwadigi and Kampli. The former was a failure due to climatic conditions. The plot immediately after planting had taken place was badly affected by very heavy rains and stagnation of water. The canes never recovered from this set back and growth was poor throughout. Despite this the best that could be done was done and a demonstration of good jaggery making was given.

The demonstration at Kampli, however, was a complete success.